

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REDUCING  
MEMORY USE ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE GRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION  
OF A LIST CONTROL

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method are disclosed whereby a list-based control (e.g., a Listbox or Choice control) in a graphical user interface may share a single copy of a list with the peer component of the control in the application program interface (API) used to display the control. This overcomes a problem in legacy Java applications, based on the abstract windowing toolkit API, wherein the peer component creates a copy of the list when the corresponding list-based control is displayed. In contrast, peer components within the Swing API reference the original version of the list associated with the control, avoiding this redundancy. According to the system and method disclosed herein, an enhanced version of Swing can be used with legacy application programs, allowing them to benefit from this feature of Swing. No modification of the legacy code is necessary. This extension to Swing is referred to herein as AWT Swing.